

REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

Applicant herein acknowledges the Restriction Requirement in the above-referenced application. Claims 1 through 173 are currently pending in the application. The Office has identified the following groups of claims as being drawn to separate inventions:

Group I – claims 1-17, drawn to a product, classified in class 257, subclass 787; and

Group II – claims 18-173, drawn to a process, classified in class 438, subclass 127.

Applicant hereby elects, without traverse of the Restriction Requirement, to prosecute the inventions of the claims of Group I, claims 1 through 17, classified in class 257, subclass 787.

Please Note Information Disclosure Statement

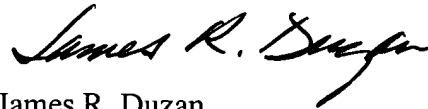
Applicant wishes to draw the Examiner's attention to the Information Disclosure Statement filed with the Office on March 2, 2004, and respectfully request that the documents or other information referenced therein be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form be returned to the undersigned attorney evidencing same.

Should any of the documents, or portions thereof, be unavailable to the Examiner for any reason, please contact the undersigned attorney, who will supply same immediately by facsimile or other suitable method of delivery.

CONCLUSION

An early Office Action on the merits on claims 1 through 17 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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JRD/dlm:lmh

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